

Lost in the Backrooms *(and Other Stories)*



JULY 2025
A Book Club Magazine

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This magazine was created during Summer School 2025 at English Book Club in Didi Dighomi, Tbilisi, Georgia, as part of an intensive English program for young learners. They chose to focus on the genres of *horror* and *adventure*.

Ilia Balkhashvili helped design the cover of this book.

Lost in the Backrooms

George Builov



Introduction

Have you ever heard of the Backrooms? Do you know what they are?

This story is about the Backrooms, so you will find out what they are in this story of surviving, exploring and escaping.

Chapter 1 – Mission

BREAKING NEWS

People started strangely disappearing, like no-clipping through walls, falling through the floor and flying through the ceiling. Major Explorer Group, or M.E.G. is searching for people who can find them. The first person to discover where they go and give information will get a 1,000,000\$ reward. M.E.G. can be found on Main Street 1739, Houston, Texas.

You are living near that place, on Oakdale Street 9, which is a neighboring street of Main Street.

You sit in your car, and go to M.E.G.

You come to ask if you can try to find the disappearing people.

Director – “This is a dangerous mission. No one ever came back from it. We warned you.”

You – “I want to find them.”

Director – “Okay. We warned you. Here is the document which lets you go there. Fill it in, and we will give you a hazmat and ID card to go.”

You – “Why do I need an ID card?”

Director – “We have theories that some monsters can copy your body and hide like that. These ID cards are unseen to any type of creature which sees a different color spectrum. To make the ID card, we need your name.”

You – “My name is Hexo Ayou.”

Director – “The hazmat and ID card will be ready soon.”

Half an hour passes.

Director – “Everything is ready. Put the hazmat on and take the ID card.”

You put on the hazmat, and the director gives you the ID card with your name.

Director – “We have an experimental method on how to get to that place on purpose. You have to find a wall that is ‘off’, stand near it, close your eyes, think about something good, and then try to walk through the wall.”

You follow the directions. At the moment of walking through the wall, you start seeing darkness and...

...after a while, you wake up on a stinky, wet, old moist carpet in a strange maze.

The maze is made of yellow walls with arrow wallpaper, yellow squared ceiling with randomly scattered buzzing lights, and as you already know, yellow moist carpet.



Chapter 2 – Exploration of Isolation

You – “Where am I? I need to find a way to get out of here...”

You see a note on the wall near you.

You – “What is that note? Maybe it will tell me something special.”

You read the note.

You – “What is that thing? I hope it is not chasing me now.”

You – “I better be careful. I don’t really want to see it.”

You turn around the wall and start exploring.

Time passes, and nothing bad happened yet.

Nothing good happened either.

You – “How much time passed already? One hour maybe?”

Your camera shows 1:32:17.

You hear knocking around the corner.

You – “Who is here? I need to check.”

You peek around the corner...

...and your camera becomes glitchy when you find out that it was the “THiNG” that the note said about.

You – “WOAH! I need to run!”

You run away, but you are getting tired.

You need to stop.

The monster is reaching you already.

You turn around a corner...

...and, suddenly, the monster stops chasing you.

You see an open metal door with “M.E.G.” written on it.

You come in and lock the door.

Right after you closed the door, the monster came and tried to open the door.

After some unsuccessful attempts, the monster went away to continue its random wandering.

Chapter 3 – The Escape

You – “Another note?”

You – “What does ‘itheardyou’ mean?”

You come to a computer. It asks for a password.

You – “I think ‘itheardyou’ is the password.”

You enter that, and the computer opens.

You see 2 files – Level 0 and Gate.exe.

You open Level 0.

It says <<Level 0 is a non-linear space, resembling the back rooms of a retail outlet. Similar to its previous form, all rooms in level 0 appear uniform and share superficial features such as yellowed wallpaper, damp carpets, and inconsistently places fluorescent lighting. However, no two rooms within the Level are identical. Beware of the Howler. >>

You – “So, that monster is named Howler.”

Then, you open the Gate.exe file.

It says <<You have opened the high security gates. Proceed with caution. >>

You go through the gate...

...and suddenly the wall behind you breaks and the Howler comes out.

You – “Not again!”

You start running away from the Howler, turning after each corner you can see.

You find a room with ladder parts.

You collect them, and fix the ladder.

You – “I wonder what is up here.”

You climb the ladder and find a key.

You – “A key!? Now I need a door...”

You explore more.

Your camera shows 4:56:21.

You find a pillar area.

Your head already hurts from that buzz everywhere.

Suddenly, behind a pillar, you see something wooden.

You – “It is a door!”

You unlock the door and come in.

There are tight walkways with holes between them, and at the other side there is a ladder with grass coming down from it.

You go on the walkways.

You come near the end, when you fall.

You need to find a key again to get to the exit.

The key is on the other side of the wall.

You take the key and unlock the door to the ladder.

You climb up and see the exit.

You open the exit door.

You – “Yay! That is the end!”

When you enter the door, you fall on the roof of the M.E.G. building.

You climb down.

Chapter 4 – The Reward

You go around every room, but do not find a single person.

Outside are plants everywhere.

Near the M.E.G. building, there is a sign pointing at a trapdoor which looks like a manhole and says "BUNKER. LOCK THE DOOR BEHIND YOU!".

You enter the bunker.

Thousands of people are in the giant building.

The director is inside and comes to you.

Director – "There are monsters outside. We named them "Howlers". Also, do you have information about the place where you were?"

You give him information you have.

You – "I've seen Howlers in that maze. They are chasing you if they see or hear you, so you need to run fast and turn around any corners you see."

Director – "Here is the reward for giving the information. The 1 million dollars."

You – "Are this even worth something now?"

Director – "Yes, they are worth 100 dollars of 7 years ago, or the time you went in the maze."

You – "7 YEARS!? But my camera only shown 7 hours..."

Director – "That means the time is going much faster in the maze."

You start slowly spending your cash for food in the bunker.

The End

The Pale King

Saba Melikishvili

Once upon a time, there were 11 races: the moths, the bees, the spiders, the flies, the maggots, the mantises, the mawleks, the mushrooms, the gods, the flukes, and the aspids.

The moths lived in an area at the edge of the world. The area where they resided is far from the center of the world. That's why we call it the kingdom's edge.

The moths also worship a god, which is The Lumiere. This god is supposedly the light that guides all good, but some people don't believe in the Lumiere, which is also made out of light itself. But don't be fooled. It can somehow turn light into a solid at will, so if you or anybody else makes it mad, then it can destroy the world. This is why no one goes near it, and yes, it is real.

The moths are also the ones wielding the dream nail, which can enter people's minds and dreams. The dream nail is kept in a very secure safe, which has a lot of people guarding it. The vault also contains the weapons of light, which were made by the lumiere. I'll go over the weapons now.

The nail of the lemer, which is a giant sword made out of light it was once in the possession of the lemer, one of the 5 guards of the Lumiere.

The lemer was a great guard, but she was the weakest of them all. She always wore a white cloak, which covered her entire body, and she insisted that she needed to cover her face.

Next up, we have the spear of Odrin it was a small spear about the size of a computer odrin wasn't a giant unlike lemer the spear of odrin wasn't actually a spear tho it was actually a gun shaped like a spear the gun would shoot the spear head and boom the enemy is dead the spear itself is covered in thin but strong rope which once unwinded could be used to use the spear like intended but not really .odrans favorite move was spinning the spear around and slashing whoever came near him.

Moving on, we have the mace of Ihasma. The mace of Ihasma actually was a mace, unlike the spear of Odrin. Ihasma wielded the mace like a mace. Not much to say about this one

Cordeon was a great guard, but he didn't have a weapon. Since I'm mentioning the other guards, I might as well mention this one too. Cordeon used a type of martial arts called caredin, which combined all other martial arts, but I think he's not that strong.

Dopneo was also one of the 5 guards. He was a strange one anyway. His weapon was the hagelak, a spear and an axe combined. Dopneo was the strongest of the guards. He wielded the hagelak like it was a spear made out of helium. The weapon weighed a ton, but Dopneo wielded it like it was a gram no more, no less.

Dopneo himself weighs a steady 110 kg, but he's kinda weird. He's not social, but whenever he talks, he acts weird, like a 50/50 split between autism and Down syndrome, so no one really talks to him, but he's still a nice guy. The Lumiere hates him because Dopneo once stole one of the weapons the Lumiere created. But the lumiere couldn't kill Dopneo because he's the strongest guard, so he was the one protecting the lumiere from danger.

The bees were a unique race. They were 4 ft tall, and they had a giant hive where they made honey. They were also very aggressive towards travelers. In the hive, the bees saw them like intruders instead of travelers, and they killed on sight. the queen bee is dead, but the bees keep working. The hive knight is the one protecting the queen's corpse. Now, the bees also hold a unique item called hiveblood, which once consumed will grant you infinite regeneration without needing a doctor.

The spiders were not special. They lived in a place called Deepnest, but they're just like normal spiders. The flies were also normal, just like the spiders. They didn't really live anywhere; they lived everywhere.

There are only 10 maggots, so they're not worth explaining. The mantises lived in the mantis village along with the mushrooms because the mantis village was in the fungal kingdom.

The mushrooms were great friends with the mantises because, like I mentioned, the mushroom kingdom was home to the mantis village.

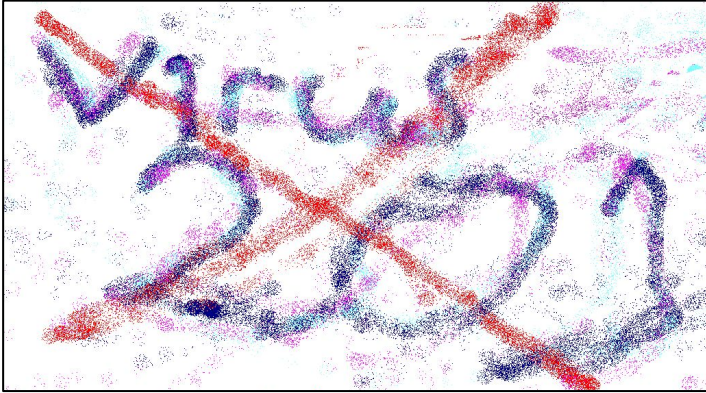
The gods are an unknown race. There is currently no info on them . The flukes lived in the sewers right below the kingdom. I'd rather not explain them because they're utterly disgusting.

The aspids live with the moths in the kingdom's edge.

And then the pale king arrived. He built many things in the kingdom, and all the people started worshipping him. Even the moths the kingdom was thriving, there was even a queen called the Tre until the Lumiere got jealous because nobody cared about her anymore, so she, of course spread an infection that covered the whole world then the pale king had an idea he would create a vessel to keep the infection inside it so he threw a bunch of children into the abyss. the first one to come up would be the vessel. As the children came up, he started describing the vessel he wanted: no cost too great, no mind to think, no will to break, no voice to cry suffering, and when the first child came up, the infection was finally sealed.

Virus-201

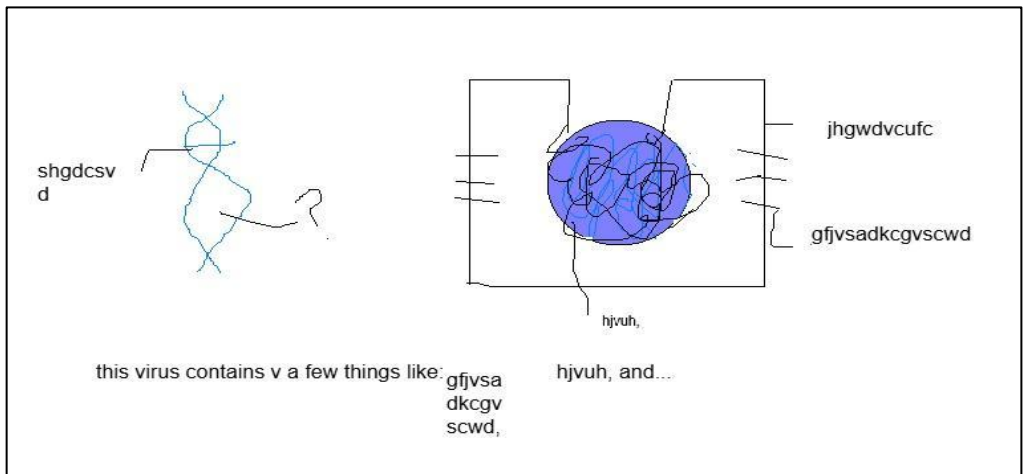
Ana Dgebuadze



In 3125 a man called Ben became a scientist. He was a normal scientist -- you know like the ones that research science. He lived in Utah, USA. His laboratory was called Virus man- 102. He worked hard in the laboratory and believed in it as an idea! Since Ben was a scientist for many years, he has done a lot of things. In the past he did experiments with merging viruses, and he didn't disappoint. Due to this, he started working on a virus called – Virus-201 -- he was merging two viruses together, so he worked hard every day.

One day when ben was working on the virus, he forgot to merge a DNA part. After a few weeks, he was facing a problem.

“What was the problem?” - you may ask. It was that he couldn't find the DNA part that he was expecting to find. You know the DNA part that I was talking about. He was a little nervous about this but he didn't take it seriously. The virus looked like this so far:



One day when Ben was working, something unexpected happened: Ben couldn't find the virus. He searched and searched. After a few minutes, Ben said that the virus was probably dead, but in reality the virus removed its layer of skin to trick ben. After a few minutes he started watching TV, but he didn't know that the virus had escaped. After a few days, many people were infected but they didn't know. After a few years people started dying. Ben had to do something about it, right?

Yes, he experimented with the people that died from the virus. He found out that the virus that he was experimenting with was the virus that escaped his laboratory. After 2 weeks he found out the truth: the virus didn't have the DNA part that Ben thought it had. Ben somehow had made a cure! And he was happier than ever!

Ben's friends then began helping him to vaccinate people using the cure. After a few years Ben retired, but he will always be remembered as a legend.

Listen to What the Scientists Say

Ilia Balkhashvili

BREAKING NEWS

One astronaut says that there are aliens in space. But don't worry, he is in an asylum. We even sent 0.000001 IQ people, and they didn't believe that.

2025/08/18

"brothers, aliens, we will attack THE Black Sea wo haHAHAHAHAHAHA."

"BUT ...,"BLABLABLA," "NONONONO, U","SHUT UP YOU STUPID ,, T WE,, I SAID THAT UP AND I WILL NOT SAY AGAIN L," BUT I WANT SAY THAT WE CAN'T BREATH ON EARTH, SCIENCE SAYS TO HIM

"BOOM....

We ARaaaaaaaaaaa!"



"What is happening bro!"

"World War 4 has ended!"

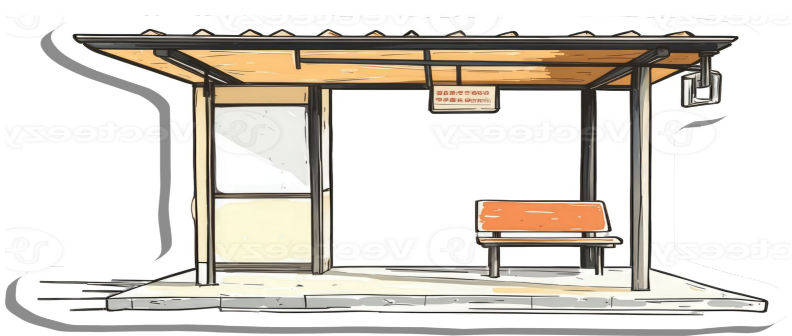
"What the...!"

Qeti, Wake Up!

Tamar Minashvili

"Qeti, wake up!!!" Mommy said. "The school bus is coming in 12 minutes!!!" Mommy went out and said – "Hurry up! You must also eat your breakfast."

I was so tired because I could not sleep. All night I was thinking about bad things like if I'll pass my exam, if I die, etc. In the morning, I ate my breakfast. I ate pancakes and drank tea and made a lunchbox for school. I had to take five minutes to brush my teeth and put my clothes on. After this, I went to the bus station.



I planned to write my math homework because I could not write it yesterday. I got on the bus and began write my homework, when I remembered math is the last lesson of the day. I can write the homework at lunch. I started to think about my school day , homework, teachers and more.

Suddenly I went to sleep.

When I woke up. I was still on the bus. When I looked out the window the bus was going into the forest, I was so scared!!!! Not long after, the bus doors opened and I saw a man. The man was so strange, he had black eyes and black hair. He was so pale and wore black clothes. I remembered this man is a killer. My mom has seen him on TV.

-“Hi Qeti.”

-“Hi.”

-“How do you do?”

-“Good”

-“Very good! Do you know who I am?”

-“No” I whispered in fear

- “Really? Hahahaha”

- “Yes”

-“Okay. Wait for me, I will get my phone”

I was so scared. He went to the driver’s seat to get the phone.

I took my bag and ran quickly to the forest. I think it was 9 pm. I ran for one hour but I did not see anything, only the dark forest.

When I was to the forest I heard strange noises. The noises became louder and louder. 15 minutes later I saw a big bear! He was asleep. I ran faster and faster.

“Stop! I see the light of a car!!!”, I said to myself.

I ran to this car and followed it for one hour. The car was red I have never seen a car as beautiful as this one. Finally, I was in the city! I was so happy! The city was so beautiful. People were walking in the street and I walked to my home. I went home and I saw how my mother cried.

When my mother saw me she was so happy. She hugged me and I told her about my day. She was shocked! After I talked with my mom, we ate soup and deserts. After that, I went to sleep. I woke up and noticed that it was all a dream.



The Creepy Book

Lile Chkhaidze

Two boys named Mark and Adam are driving to Burger king for a quick snack. When they arrived they saw a dark red book near the entrance.

“What is that thing?”

“It’s a BOOK, are you blind or something?”

“Jeez, I’m just asking!”

“Well, STOP asking dumb things!”

Mark picks up the book and goes to buy something while Adam parks the car, but he sees that there are no people (except for the cashier)

“2 burgers, 1 cola, 1 Fanta and some fries please.”

“That will be 65 dollars...”

Mark grabs the order and quickly goes to the car but, the cashier stops him.

“Excuse me mister, I saw you picking up that book... get rid of it as fast as possible!”

“I umm... will?”

Mark quickly walks out of the café and quickly goes to the car. He tells Adam everything that happened, but Adam thinks that his friend is just overreacting about a book. When they get home they start to read the book, but it has some strange things written in it.

The lady next door will shout at a dog that will eat her carrots? What kind of book is this? And why would a dog eat a carrot?

"I don't know..."

"This book is really strange!"

"Let's just get rid of it."

"Nope, I'm kind of interested in how far this will go."

"But, it's a little creepy..."

"Oh come on it's just a book nothing will happen."

Suddenly Mark hears a lady shouting and a dog barking.

"What's that noise?"

"Let's just check it out, it's probably nothing."

They come out of the room to see what's happening, they see a lady shouting at a dog, but the strange part is that the dog ate her carrots.

"Hey Adam, do you remember what that book said?"

"It's probably a strange coincidence."

"Yeah, but it's really creeping me out, I'll just burn the book."

"Don't you dare, it's a normal book it's nothing "creepy" you're just overreacting over a book."

"If something happens don't blame me, ok?"

"It's a short book nothing will happen."

Mark is worried because Adam won't listen to him, even the cashier told him to get rid of the book. After a lot of thinking he finally gets an idea he will get rid of the book and tell Adam that there was no book.

But before he got an idea Adam read a lot of things like-“tomorrow the school bus will crash into a tree, nobody will get harmed”, “the jewelry shop will get robbed tonight”, “there will be a lot of raining and it will be hard to see” and “the house near the school will collapse.”

Mark decided to burn the book as soon as Adam would leave it out of his sight. Adam stood up to get some water mark took his time and hid the book. Adam noticed that the book was missing, he instantly asked Mark, if he took it. Mark lied and told him that he probably put it away before going to drink the water. They look for the book but can't find the book.

-I think we will find it tomorrow.

-yeah, I'm kind of tired now and it's 11pm.

-I'll keep looking.

-ok.

Adam goes to bed and Mark goes outside to burn the book. When he does he goes to sleep. When they wake up they go out for a quick breakfast at their friend's house, but on their doorstep there was the same book that mark burnt. Mark was surprised but Adam thought it was just a prank. He picks up the book and gets in the car soon they realize that the jewelry shop got robbed.

-I told you that this book isn't worth being in our hands, we better put it back.

-No, Mark listen, I'm interested in this book and I won't put it back just because of some strange coincidence!

Just after Adam said that it started to rain.

"Just give me the book! See? It said that it would rain and it really started to rain!"

"IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE!"

"No, it isn't. This book is in charge of our future just give it to me!"

Mark sees a school bus it was fast but he saw that it actually did hit a tree.

"If you say that, that was a coincidence I'm burning that book."

Mark quickly grabs the book and puts it in his bag. Adam tries to grab it but he can't. They get in the car and drive to their friend's house but Adam manages to steal the book and continues reading. He reads things like "your friend won't come home until 11pm" and "Mark's phone will get lost"

"Mark never loses his phone, so the book is fake! I have to tell him later"

When they arrive at their friend's house they realize that he isn't home.

"Adam, don't tell me that YOU took the book."

"I did and what about it?"

"Give it to me!"

Adam gives the book to Mark but when he tries to call his friend he realizes that his phone is gone.

"Adam what did you do?"

"I promise I didn't take your phone."

"You read it in the book, right?"

"Yeah...."

"Show me the book."

“Fine.”

“Mark and Adam will get a job...what the-”

“Yup, let’s just get a job already and burn this book.”

“Let’s just burn the book and get a job...”

“At where?”

“Where we found the book.”

Mark quickly burns the book and gets in the car, but then he realizes that he left his phone in the car and that’s why it was lost. They quickly drive to Burger king and get a job.

Secret Killer Out of the World

Tekla Kandelaki

Breaking news! - A group of girls and boys went missing two days ago. Their parents said they never came back after they left the house. They were just hanging out at another city and they were not answering the phone, so there was little information. The parents don't even know which city the kids were in. They were sending police now to the nearest city. Maybe they could be there.

After two hours of trying to get the place, the police found a really creepy park. One year ago they found a killer at that same place. Someone almost got killed, but now we don't know what happened or what will happen. We checked the cameras at that park and we saw a creepy old man walking around and a girl. She looked like a pretty young girl, maybe she was the part of the group who knows. We also saw a boy who was bleeding and the girl was running away. We were sure that it was the group when we showed that video to the parents, they said it was their son.

The girl was also part of the group and the killer was similar we found 1 year ago. Maybe he came back when we all arrived at the place? No one was there until we saw the boy bleeding near the trees. It was their son who was on the video. We got him to the hospital and everyone was hoping he would survive and he did. He didn't remember what happened to him or the group.

We found everyone but not the girl sadly. They were all thinking where she could be and then her brother said that we should check the car they were staying in. It was a big camping car and she was there sleeping and not breathing. We got her to the hospital and when she woke up her mouth her nose were bleeding. She said a man attacked her. We were sure that it was the creepy man walking around. She started seeing things like a knife and the man, but actually it was just her seeing he was following everyone from the group.

About the Authors

George Builov

George has mastered the backrooms. He has secret knowledge you are looking for. Maybe if you say the right passcode, he will tell you what he knows.

Saba Melikishvili

Saba is an 11-year-old writer. He likes journalism, video games, and anime. He also runs a news website on Google about video game news. His address is: One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052, United States

Ana Dgebuadze

The person who created this book is: ANA DGEBUADZE. She finished writing this book on July 23 2025. She worked very hard on the book and needed a lot of time to finish it. Since Ana started the book she was excited, every day when she was making progress she was working hard, sometimes she read the book herself, and she liked it. One day she hopes that the book will turn out to be a classic. Ana wants to be a math teacher when she grows up. She has a lot of friends, and plays with them. She wants to wish you good luck and hopes that you liked and shared the story.

Ilia Balkhashvili

Ilia is the artist behind the design of this book. He has a fine eye for detail and a wild imagination. When he is older, he'd like to be an engineer.

Tamar Minashvili

Tamar Minashvili was born on 01.21.2014 in Georgia (Tbilisi). She is the student who has had many successes. She lives in Tbilisi with her parents and sister. She has a very good family: father is Vazha Minashvili, mother is Mariam Getsadze, and her sister is Qetevan Minashvili. She studies in first private school in Georgia “Jejili”. She also goes to Georgian ballet Suxishvilebi and to music school where she plays on piano. She loves to read books. Her favorite writer is Astrid Lingren. She has many interesting hobbies.

Lile Chkhaidze

Lile is a young author from Tbilisi, Georgia. She was born in 2014 on the 23rd September. She has one younger sister. She spends most of her time chatting with friends or talking to her mom. She does not generally like sharing about herself



Tekla Kandelaki

Tekla is a young girl from Georgia in Tbilisi. She may want to be a dancer or singer when she will grow up. She likes animals, mostly cats, and obviously dancing and singing also. Tekla likes horror movies and books, also hunted places. Her dream is to become someone known but she also loves traveling to different places right now. She's in grade five and she loves studying when she's interested in the topic. When she grows up she will be grateful for what she did at a young age.

